



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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November 2, 2009

Re: Wyckoff Cleanup Site – Generational Remedy Evaluation Process Has Begun

Dear Interested Bainbridge Island Community Members:

You may be familiar with the Wyckoff Eagle Harbor cleanup site, and the work that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has been doing there for several years. EPA has selected a containment remedy for “the Point” portion of the site using a perimeter wall, site cap and a groundwater extraction system. Under the Federal Superfund law, the Department of Ecology has responsibility for long-term operation and maintenance of the site when that remedy is complete.

Ecology agrees that a containment system is needed and that EPA should proceed. However, Ecology has concerns about long-term protectiveness and stewardship. As a result, we have launched a 9 - month evaluation process to explore additional ways to reduce remaining volume and mobility of the contamination at the Wyckoff site.

Enclosed is a brief description of that process. This evaluation includes a steering committee made up of local community and tribal representatives and the assistance of national experts. Your involvement as a community member is welcome as well, as shown in the schedule.

You can learn more about the process and stay current on emerging information through the project webpage www.wyckoffgenerationalremedy.org. It will include project background information, meeting announcements and materials, summaries of results, and other up-to-date resources. A comment form is also available on the webpage for questions and input, and suggestions for additional interested people and organizations.

We hope you will follow this process and give us your thoughts. Ensuring long-term environmental protection of the Eagle Harbor area is important to everyone.

Sincerely,

Tim L. Nord, Manager
Land and Aquatic Lands Cleanup Section
Toxics Cleanup Program

enclosure



Focus Puget Sound

The Wyckoff Eagle Harbor Site

Exploring a “Remedy for the Generations”

Ecology has begun a 9-month evaluation process with the assistance of a panel of regional and national experts, and a local community and tribal Steering Committee. This process is being called a “Generational Remedy Evaluation” and is intended to look at additional protective solutions that would reduce the remaining volume and mobility of the contamination at the Wyckoff site.

What’s the Need for a Remedy for the Generations?

Preventing historic creosote compounds in “The Point” from moving into the environment is a high priority, and the Environmental Protection Agency has selected a containment remedy using a perimeter wall, site cap, and groundwater extraction system. The state Department of Ecology agrees that the containment remedy is needed, but has two concerns about long-term protectiveness and stewardship:

- Leaving large amounts of mobile contamination at this site, especially given the sensitive location on the shores of Puget Sound.
- Accepting the long-term financial burden that this action places on the state to maintain and periodically rebuild the containment remedy.

That’s why Ecology is undertaking a focused approach to explore alternatives for Wyckoff soil and groundwater that would reduce the remaining volume and mobility of the contamination.

Steering Committee Purpose

The Washington State Department of Ecology’s (Ecology) goal is to involve and invite the input of the “community”

of Bainbridge Island in the Generational Remedy Evaluation Process. To do this, a Steering Committee is formed that will work with, and offer advice and input to Ecology throughout the Generational Remedy Evaluation Process. Membership to the Steering Committee is geared toward those members of the Bainbridge Island community who have extensive historical knowledge and interest in the Wyckoff site.

Local Steering Committee Members Include:

- **Perry Barrett**, Bainbridge Island Parks
- **Rich Brooks**, Suquamish Tribe
- **Libby Hudson**, City of Bainbridge Island
- **Janet Knox**, Association of Bainbridge Communities
- **Tim Nord**, Washington State Department of Ecology
- **Clarence Moriwaki**, Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Committee
- **Frank Stowell**, Citizen at Large

Steering Committee Resources:

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2009				2010			
September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April
Steering Committee Kickoff Meeting September 14 Discuss Project Objectives, Process, and Public Outreach		Steering Committee Meeting November 16 Strawberry Hill Center 10 am - 3 pm Vet Expert Panel and Existing Conditions Summary	Expert Panel Workshop January 12-14 IslandWood Includes Steering Committee Participation	Steering Committee Meeting February 1 10 am - 3 pm Assemble Remedial Alternatives	Steering Committee Meeting March 8 10 am - 3 pm Review Alternatives and Cost Estimates		Steering Committee Meeting April 19 10 am - 3 pm Review Final Summary of Recommended Approach

* Steering Committee meetings open to public observation with a scheduled opportunity during the meeting for the public to share perspectives.